

**ABSTRACT**

This invention provides an improved graphical user interface (GUI) for optical network administration. The GUI allows a user to view a network topology in which only those nodes at which channel traffic may be added to and/or dropped from a muxed signal are displayed. The GUI also provides a view of optical components through which data is transmitted on a selected route, and a view of the individual channels which comprise the selected route. Finally, the GUI allows the user to view information relating to transmitters and receivers associated with the channel signals being transmitted along the selected route.

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